

and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kawai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,891,635 to Dutta ("Dutta"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Kawai and Dutta are not available as prior art against the instant claims. Kawai was published (patented) on May 10, 2005, based on a U.S. patent application filed March, 23 2000. Dutta was published (patented) on May 10, 2005, based on a U.S. patent application filed November 30, 2000. The instant application was filed on February 20, 2001 and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Japanese Application No. 2000/42654, which was filed on February 21, 2001, and to Japanese Application No. 2000/42656, which was filed on February 21, 2001. Translations of Japanese Applications Nos. 2000/42654 and 2000/42656 are attached hereto. As instant claims 6, 7, 9-11 and 14 are fully supported by the disclosures of Japanese Applications Nos. 2000/42654 and 2000/42656, at least those claims are entitled to the February 21, 2000 filing dates of the priority applications.

Neither Kawai nor Dutta was published before February 21, 2000, and thus neither is available as prior art against claims 6, 7, 9-11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or §102(b). Neither Kawai nor Dutta is based on a U.S. patent application filed before February 21, 2000, and thus neither is available as prior art against claims 6, 7, 9-11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Accordingly, Kawai and Dutta are not prior art to the instant claims.

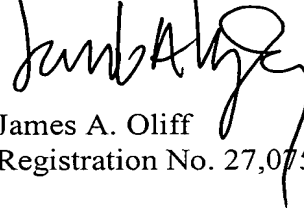
Kawai and Dutta cannot form the basis of a rejection of the instant claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments

English-Language Translations of Japanese Applications Nos. 2000/42654 and
2000/42656

Date: November 1, 2005

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